

Remarks

The Examiner, by telephone call to Applicants' attorney, required restriction between the following groups of claims: Group I (claims 1-7), Group II (claims 8-17), and Group II (claims 18-19). In response to the restriction requirement, by this Second Preliminary Amendment, Applicants confirm election of the invention of Group I -- claims 1-7 for prosecution in this application. This election was previously made to the Examiner by telephone on May 11, 2001. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications to protect the inventions of Groups II and III.

Claims 1-7 and 20-32 are pending in the present application. Claims 8-19 have been canceled without prejudice, claims 1-7 have been amended, and new claims 20-32 are presented.

In response to the Office Communication dated March 1, 2002, marked-up and clean versions of the amended specification are attached hereto as Exhibits A and B, respectively. In addition, a marked-up version of the amended claims is attached hereto as Exhibit C, and a clean copy of the claims that will be pending as of entry of the instant amendment is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. Should any fees be required, however, please charge such fees to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,

Date April 1, 2002

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Enclosures

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